-20-

CLAIMS:

- 1. An isolated microorganism strain of *Lactobacillus salivarius* selected from the group consisting of Salm-9, List40-18 and List40-41.
- 2. The isolated microorganism of claim 1 wherein the strain is Salm-9.
- 3. The isolated microorganism of claim 1 wherein the strain is List40-18.
- 4. The isolated microorganism of claim 1 wherein the strain is List40-41.
- 5. An isolated microorganism strain List40-13 of *Streptococcus* cristatus.
- 6. The isolated microorganism of claim 1 or 5, wherein the strain is provided as a concentrate in the form of a frozen or lyophilized powder.
- 7. A composition comprising a defined competitive exclusion formulation and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said defined competitive exclusion formulation comprises an isolated microorganism strain selected from the group consisting of *Streptococcus cristatus* List40-13, *Lactobacillus salivarius* Salm-9, *Lactobacillus salivarius* List40-18 and *Lactobacillus salivarius* List40-41.
- 8. The composition of claim 7 wherein said defined competitive exclusion formulation comprises the isolated microorganism strain *Streptococcus* cristatus List40-13 and an isolated microorganism *Lactobacillus salivarius* strain selected from the group consisting of Salm-9, List40-18 and List40-41.

-21-

- 9. A composition comprising a defined competitive exclusion formulation and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, said defined competitive exclusion formulation comprising isolated microorganism strains *Streptococcus cristatus* List40-13 and *Lactobacillus salivarius* List40-41.
- 10. The defined competitive exclusion formulation of claim 9 further comprising isolated microorganism strains *Lactobacillus salivarius* Salm-9 and *Lactobacillus salivarius* List40-18.
- 11. The composition of any of claims 7-10 wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier comprises water.
 - 12. The composition of any of claims 7-10 formed as feed for poultry.
- 13. The composition of any of claims 7-10 in the form of a frozen or lyophilized powder.
- 14. A method for inhibiting enteropathogenic colonization of poultry, said method comprising the steps of administering to said poultry a defined competitive exclusion formulation comprising an isolated microorganism strain selected from the group consisting of *Streptococcus cristatus* List40-13, *Lactobacillus salivarius* Salm-9, *Lactobacillus salivarius* List40-18 and *Lactobacillus salivarius* List40-41.
- 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the defined competitive exclusion formulation comprises an isolated microorganism strain *Streptococcus cristatus* List40-13 and an isolated microorganism *Lactobacillus salivarius* strain selected from the group consisting of Salm-9, List40-18 and List40-41.
- 16. The method of claim 15 wherein the defined competitive exclusion composition comprises *Streptococcus cristatus* List40-13, *Lactobacillus salivarius* Salm-9, *Lactobacillus salivarius* List40-18 and *Lactobacillus salivarius* List40-41.

-22-

- 17. The method of claim 14 wherein the enteropathogen is selected from the group consisting of Salmonella.
- 18. The method of claim 14 wherein the enteropathogen is selected from the group consisting of *Campylobacter*.
- 19. The method of claim 14 or 16 wherein the competitive exclusion composition is administered orally.
- 20. The method of claim 19 wherein the competitive exclusion composition is administered in combination with feed for said poultry.
- 21. The method of claim 19 wherein the competitive exclusion composition is administered in the drinking water for said poultry.
- 22. The method of claim 19 wherein the competitive exclusion composition is administered by spraying the formulation directly on the poultry.
- 23. The method of any of claims 19-22 wherein the composition is administered to newborn chicks, ranging in age from about 1 to about 4 days post hatching.
- 24. The method of claim 23 wherein the administered step comprises administering a single daily dose on two consecutive days.
- 25. A method of inhibiting the growth of an enteropathogenic bacteria selected from the group consisting of Salmonella and Campylobacter, said method comprising the step of contacting the enteropathogen with a defined bacterial composition comprising an isolated bacteria selected from the group consisting of Streptococcus cristatus List40-13, Lactobacillus salivarius Salm-9, Lactobacillus salivarius List40-18 and Lactobacillus salivarius List40-41, or a product produced by said bacteria.

-23-

- 26. A method for reducing levels of enteropathogenic bacteria, selected from the group consisting of Salmonella and Campylobacter, in poultry, said method comprising the step of contacting the enteropathogen with a composition comprising an isolated bacteria selected from the group consisting of Streptococcus cristatus List40-13, Lactobacillus salivarius Salm-9, Lactobacillus salivarius List40-18 and Lactobacillus salivarius List40-41, or a product produced by said bacteria, in an amount effective to reduce said enteropathogenic bacteria levels.
- 27. The method of claim 26 wherein the said composition comprises an isolated microorganism strain *Streptococcus cristatus* List40-13 and an isolated microorganism *Lactobacillus salivarius* strain selected from the group consisting of Salm-9, List40-18 and List40-41.
- 28. The method of claim 27 wherein the defined competitive exclusion composition comprises *Streptococcus cristatus* List40-13, *Lactobacillus salivarius* Salm-9, *Lactobacillus salivarius* List40-18 and *Lactobacillus salivarius* List40-41.
- 29. The method of claim 26 wherein the competitive exclusion composition is administered in combination with feed for said poultry.
- 30. The method of claim 26 wherein the competitive exclusion composition is administered in the drinking water for said poultry.